

# Colton Nicks

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## EDUCATION

### Arkansas State University — Jonesboro, AR

- Accelerated Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering Program | Dec. 2028
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering | Dec. 2027
- Dual Major: Associate of Science in Engineering Technology | Dec. 2027
- Certificate in Advanced Materials and Manufacturing | Dec. 2027
- Associate of Science Degree | Dec. 2024

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### The Systems Group — Engineering Intern, AI Solutions & Process Improvement Jonesboro, AR May 2026 – Present

- Designing a custom quoting systems, saving 10+ hours/week and \$20K/year while avoiding a \$250K build cost.
- Building AI-assisted web applications using Claude for Work (Cowork) to streamline business processes.
- Authored the organization's AI start guide, establishing standards for responsible and effective AI tool use.
- Contributed to a \$9M project proposal, compiling NFPA regulatory compliance document for the customer's bid.

### Nestlé Purina — Corporate Design Engineering Intern St. Louis, MO May 2025 – Aug. 2025

- Led engineering design project delivering 5.7 million gallons in annual water savings and \$40,700 annual cost reduction.
- Created engineering solutions using Inventor, SolidWorks, and 2D CAD software.
- Collaborated with production, maintenance, and engineering teams to implement improvements.

### Nestlé — Project Engineering Intern Jonesboro, AR May 2024 – May 2025

- Managed capital improvement projects totaling \$1.8 million while an additional \$3 million project.
- Generated \$250,000 in annual savings through process and equipment improvements.
- Reduced plant emissions by 53.86 tons of CO2 annually through sustainability initiatives.

### Southern Cast Products — Mechanical Engineering Intern Jonesboro, AR Nov. 2023 – May 2024

- Assembled and inspected industrial molds supporting daily production operations.
- Assisted with robotic systems and manufacturing processes while maintaining quality standards.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Arkansas State University — Undergraduate Researcher, Additive Manufacturing Jonesboro, AR Aug. 2025 – May 2025

- Collaborating with faculty and student researchers to design a centrifugal atomizer for metal powder production used in additive manufacturing.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) — President / Co-Founder Feb. 2024 – Present

- Founded and currently lead the university's NSBE chapter.
- Organize professional development workshops, networking events, and community outreach initiatives.

### College of Engineering & Computer Science — Student Ambassador Aug. 2025 – Present

- Represent the College at career fairs, recruitment events, and student outreach programs.

## AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

- 3-Time Recipient, Strong-Turner Alumni Award — Arkansas State University.
- Certificate of Completion: From Problem to Prototype (Part 1) — Redtail Innovations.
- OSHA 10 Certification.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Engineering Software:** SolidWorks, AutoCAD, Autodesk Inventor, MATLAB, Bluebeam.
- **Engineering Competencies:** Project Engineering, Process Optimization, Manufacturing Systems, Quality Assurance, Continuous Improvement.
- **Business Tools:** Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Technical Reporting, Microsoft 365.
- **Leadership Skills:** Team Leadership and Recruiting, Event Coordination.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME)
- Association for Science and Steel Technology (AIST)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Volunteer - Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteer - Camden Youth Center
- Volunteer - Football Coach, Earle School District (300+ volunteer hours)